

HARPSWELL *BULLETIN*

News for Harpswell Residents & Property Owners from the Town Office – April 2005

Town Website: www.harpswell.maine.gov

TOWN MEETING RESULTS

The Annual Town Meeting set for Saturday, March 12, was re-scheduled due to severe weather and held on the following day, March 13. The business meeting began at noon with polls open throughout the day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Approximately 30% of Harpswell's registered voters cast ballots with the following results: Samuel W. Alexander was elected Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor for a three-year term; David A. Johnson and Jane B. Meisenbach were elected to the M.S.A.D. # 75 Board of Directors for three-year terms; full funding of \$95,918 was approved for Curtis Memorial Library; the proposal to change from three to five Selectmen in 2006 was defeated; the Recall Ordinance for Elected Officials was approved; and the creation of a Charter Commission was defeated. Complete results are available on the Town's website (see address above).

A municipal budget, exclusive of school and county funding, in the amount of \$3,541,206 was approved—a 5% increase over 2004 appropriations. Much of the increase was due to debt service obligations (up \$160,552) and more careful planning for future capital expenditures (up \$157,400). Most of the Town's operational budgets were kept to minimal increases. In addition, the Town Meeting approved setting aside from undesignated fund balance the amount of \$100,000 for the Capital Roads reserve account and \$58,600 for the Recycling Center capital reserve account.

ASSESSING UPDATE

Enclosed with this issue of the Bulletin is a form from the Town's Assessing Office which should be filled out and returned by **April 30, 2005**. Pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 706 all taxpayers should provide the assessors with a "true and perfect" list of all the taxable property which they possess as of April 1 in order to be eligible for an abatement. The Selectmen have authorized the Assessing Office to send out this form by first class mail to all Harpswell property owners. If you have any questions about this form, please contact the Assessing Office at 833-5771.

In addition Vision Appraisal is continuing its revaluation of the Town. To date many properties have been visited; however, follow-up letters are being sent to those who were not home so that appointments may be scheduled for interior inspections. If you have any questions about the revaluation process, please contact the Town's Assessing Office.

SPEED LIMIT REQUEST

Selectmen received a citizen request to formally ask the Maine Department of Transportation to lower speed limits from 40 mph to 30 mph on Harpswell Neck Road (Route 123) near the Post Office and also in front of the Mitchell Field entrance. The Selectmen would like to hear from members of the public on this matter to see if the Town should make a formal request. Please contact the Town Office with comments.

COMMITTEE APPLICATIONS

Selectmen are seeking interested citizens to serve on Harpswell's various committees and boards. If you have an interest in serving your community in this capacity, please download a committee application from the Town's website and submit to the Town Office. Many openings exist including ones on the Planning Board and Board of Appeals as well as openings on a new committee—the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Under the leadership of Recreation Director Liz Bouvé the Town's recreational offerings have been significantly expanded. In addition to traditional sports programs, there are some exciting new recreational opportunities for all ages. Please check out the programming below and sign up for one of these activities.

Spring Makeup Makeover, April 9, 1-3 pm, Town Office. Makeup artist and aesthetician Miranda Brannigan of Beau Bella will teach you how to apply your makeup. A variety of techniques will be taught plus the newest spring look. \$16.

Indian Cooking Class April 12, 6-8pm. Chef Marley will be preparing Devannandah, a Starving Chef Restaurant original chicken curry dish with raisins, nuts and vegetables. \$25.

How to Use Your Digital Camera, April 15, Friday, 1-4 pm or 6-9 pm at the Town Office. This class is for you if you have a digital camera but don't use it, just bought a digital camera, or are about to buy a digital camera. Learn from a master teacher. \$30 residents, \$35 non-residents.

How to Take Better Pictures - May 13, Friday, 1-4pm or 6-9pm. Composition and techniques that will improve your photographs. Cost \$30 residents, \$35 non-residents.

Creating Digital Scrapbooks - June 6, 9-12. \$30 residents, \$35 non-residents.

How to Photograph Flowers - July 12 lecture 6-8:30 pm and July 13 workshop 8:30-3:30.

How to Photograph Seascapes - August 9 lecture 6-8:30 pm and August 10 workshop 8:30-3:30.

On the Water - August 16 lecture 6-8:30 pm and August 17 workshop 8:30-3:30.

Pastel Workshops - Visiting Russian Pastelist Serguei Oussik will be doing workshops on July 16, 17, 18 and 19 from 9-4. The cost is \$65 per day. Signs ups may be for any day or days. Some experience is required. See his work on www.artlondon.com.

Fabric Collage, "Something Fishy" May 7, 10-4, Town Office. Artist/Author Susan Carlson. \$55 residents, \$60 non-residents. www.susancarlson.com

Adult Pick-Up Basketball continues every Wednesday from 6-8PM at HIS. Cost \$1.

Youth Baseball and Softball late registrations are being accepted on a space available basis. This program is for girls and boys ages 7-12. Seven year olds may choose T-Ball instead. Clinics will continue at Harpswell Islands School on 4/2 and 4/9. Pre-registration required. \$25 includes late fee.

Music and Movement classes for ages 1-3, 1-4, and 2.5-4.5 will begin on April 7, Friday and Saturday mornings. Classes are taught at Bowdoin College by Harpswell's own music educator Tammi Lareau. 8 weeks. Prices \$48 to \$56.

HIS Wednesday Morning Nature, Music and Movement Class – April 6-June 15. Ages 5-7 at Harpswell Islands School from 9-9:50. Drop off at 8:55. 8 weeks. \$50.

Harpswell Harriers – Cross Country – April 11 thru June 1, Monday, Wednesday and Fridays 3:50-4:35 pm. Ages 5-12. \$10.

T-Ball – Ages 5-7 starts on April 30 from 9-10 am at the ball field and continue thru June 11. \$10

Summer Swim – June 20 – July 1 (June 20 & 21 sessions will be at night due to snow days). \$30

Camp Harpswell – June 24 – July 1 (changed due to school snow days). Kids can swim first.

Kayaking – July 5-9 (changed due to school snow days). 9-12 or 1-4. Ages 8-12. Beg. & Int. \$150.

Registration: Pre-registration is required for all activities except adult basketball. There is a locked mail box to the right of the front entrance of the Town Office for 24-hour drop off. Flyers for most programs will be available on the Town website or at the Town Office as they become available. Check the calendar on the website at www.harpswell.maine.gov for a listing of all activities. Contact Liz Bouvé at 833-5771 or e-mail harpswellrec@zwi.net.

NEW EMPLOYEES

The Town recently hired Jill Caldwell of Orr's Island as Deputy Tax Collector, who replaces Pat Leary, and Jean Rand of Great Island as Codes Enforcement Office secretary, who replaces Cindy Bryant. Both have prior municipal experience—Jill as a former Deputy Town Clerk in Harpswell under Frances Johnson and Jean as an Assistant Tax Collector for the City of Brewer.